



# The Front Porch

The Newsletter of the City of Springfield,  
Planning and Development Department's  
Neighborhood Conservation Office  
Spring/Summer 2002 Issue

## Mission:

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Springfield must strive to promote strong neighborhoods that instill pride in their residents. Therefore, the Neighborhood Conservation Office is committed to working with the Community to ensure strong viable neighborhoods.

## SPRING - The Time for Gardening and Spring Cleaning - the City can Help!

Submitted by Barbara Lucks

When you think of places offering products and services for lawn care, gardening and spring cleaning, you probably think of your favorite nursery or greenhouse, home improvement stores or even farm supply stores. You probably don't think of the City of Springfield, do you? Perhaps you should. The City's Solid Waste Management Division, responsible for the implementation and management of the City's voter-approved Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS), provides a number of products and services of interest to home gardeners and homeowners.

### Popular Recycled Yardwaste Available to Gardeners

To conserve landfill space and utilize a valuable resource, yardwaste (leaves, grass clippings, trimmings, brush) has been banned from Missouri's landfills since 1991. Springfield and Greene County gardeners and homeowners benefit from the City's acceptance of yardwaste at three locations. The City then helps Mother Nature turn the yardwaste into beautiful, rich compost. It is screened to remove foreign matter (such as sweetgum balls!) and the fine, finished product is available for sale under the trade name MO-Post (yardwaste compost).

Brush is also ground and is available in a choice of two textures as wood chip landscaping mulch under the trade name MO-Mulch. For information on the availability and pricing of the products and the hours of the Yardwaste Recycling Center, call the City's Recycling Hotline at 864-1904.



*The Household Chemical Collection Center is located in the 1200 Block of West Nichols*

### Homeowners and the Environment

The City also operates the Household Chemical Collection Center (HCCC). The HCCC offers a free, safe disposal facility for chemicals generated from households in Springfield and Greene County.

If you think you don't have any chemicals dangerous enough to be disposed of in such a facility, just read the labels on your lawn and garden chemicals, household cleaning chemicals, pest products, pool chemicals, home improvement products, such as paint and thinners, and automotive products. Consider that one gallon of motor oil contaminates 750,000 gallons of water and antifreeze is deadly to pets.

(Article Continued on Page 2)



## The Front Porch

We often think that because these products are so easy to purchase, they aren't dangerous. If the label has any of the signal words: danger, corrosive, caution, caustic, flammable, combustible, poison or toxic, the product should not be poured down the toilet, sink or other household drain, nor poured down a storm drain or out onto the ground, nor put in your trash. It contains compounds that are toxic to children, pets, groundwater, vegetation or river and stream life.

Since opening in August, 1994, the HCCC has removed more than 660,615 pounds of dangerous materials from Springfield's waste stream. The Center consistently maintains a recycling rate of more than 85 percent.

The services of the HCCC are available free to Springfield and Greene County residents by calling 864-2000 and making an appointment. An appointment

usually takes 3 - 5 minutes and you don't have to leave your car - it's a drive-through facility!

Funding for these services does not come from local tax money. The ISWMS, which includes the HCCC, the Yardwaste Recycling Center, the City-operated Recycling Centers, the Springfield Sanitary Landfill, the Market Development Program and the Information and Public Education Program, are funded entirely from landfill tipping fees, revenues from the sale of yardwaste products and services, donations and honor system fees.

For more information about the services of the ISWMS, call the City's Recycling Hotline at (417) 864-1904.

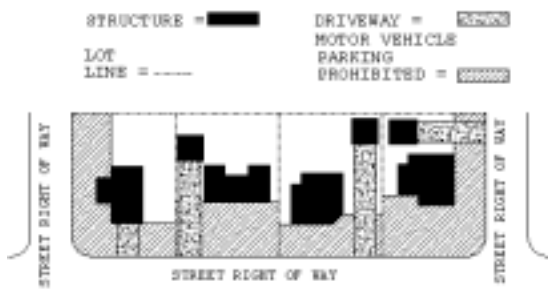
**Ep**

*Barbara Lucks is Materials Recovery/Education Coordinator for the Solid Waste Management Division of the City's Public Works Department.*

# Front-Yard Parking Codes Revised

City Council has made it easier to enforce illegal front-yard parking violations. Recent amendments to the City Code result in a motor-vehicle owner being eligible for a \$25 ticket for illegally parking in the grass or dirt of a front yard. Previously, front-yard parking violations had commonly resulted in \$10 fines. The graphic below illustrates where motor-vehicle parking in a residential yard is prohibited.

Depending on the scenario, illegal front-yard parking complaints should be reported to the City of Springfield as follows:



**A) The front yard parking violation is taking place at that moment - Call 911** (State that your call is a "non-emergency" to be directed to the appropriate operator.)

**B) The front yard parking violation is not currently taking place, but is a recurring problem - Call the Public Information Office at 864-1011** (Indicate that you would like your complaint added to the "Service Request Database." Indicate days and times when the front yard parking violation is most likely to occur.)

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**Contact us:** Phone: 864-1033 • Fax: 864-1030  
e-mail: [city@ci.springfield.mo.us](mailto:city@ci.springfield.mo.us)  
homepage: [springfield.missouri.org/gov](http://springfield.missouri.org/gov)  
**Mail to:** City of Springfield, c/o Planning and  
Development, P.O. Box 8368, Springfield, Mo 65801



## Boarded Buildings Ordinance Holds Property Owners Accountable

The effects of boarded buildings continue to threaten adjacent properties, the integrity of our neighborhoods, and to the image of our City. In response to the concerns of neighborhood associations and the community, City Council has adopted a new ordinance that works to discourage the threat of boarded buildings. The new ordinance requires people planning to board up a structure to obtain a Boarded Building Permit. As of April 27, 2002 all existing boarded buildings will be required to comply with the new regulations on boarding up buildings. The ordinance is an amendment to the current Dangerous, Blighted, and Nuisance Building Code and focuses on greater involvement of property owners in their buildings. The owner will be responsible for purchasing a permit, properly sealing the structure, and adhering to health and safety codes. These new requirements are designed to reduce the number of boarded structures in the community. The following items are the key changes to the ordinance:

- The ordinance will apply to vacant boarded buildings located within residential neighborhoods.
- A permit must be issued prior to a building being boarded. Cost of the permit will be \$200.
- Existing boarded buildings will have until April 27<sup>th</sup> to come into compliance.
- A city inspection is required before a permit can be issued.
- The inspection will result in several health and safety measures:
  - Adequate protection from intrusion and deterioration by weather
  - Removal of trash and debris

- Prohibited access by people and animals
- Utilities safely disconnected
- Structural soundness
- Safe entry for emergency personnel

- The permit will be valid for 180 days, at which time the owner must have applied for and been issued a new permit.
- The City will be able to consider the use of *Eminent Domain* as an option to acquire properties that continue to create a nuisance.

Residents are encouraged to call the City's service request number at 864-1011 to report any boarded or open and dangerous buildings. For a copy of the ordinance call 864-1059 or visit our web site at [www.springfieldmogov.org/gov](http://www.springfieldmogov.org/gov).

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*Ordinance Number 5128 will target boarded and dangerous buildings such as the one shown above.*



## Publication Spotlight

### *“Citizen’s Service Assistance Packet”*

Get your copy of this informative packet containing everything you need to know about Springfield City Services. Included are phone numbers for local government offices and brochures to help citizens and neighborhoods with their questions and concerns. Topics range from information on *City Boards and Commissions*, *Neighborhood Health*, *How to Register a Formal Complaint*, to more general City information such as a *City Utilities Transit Schedule*, the *Official Area Visitors Guide*, a council zone map, a Springfield City Map and much more. The Citizens Service Assistance Packet is designed to encourage cooperation between citizens and government and provide a detailed guide to living in Springfield.

Copies of the Citizen’s Service Assistance Packet are available at the Busch Municipal Building, 840 Boonville Ave. or by mail. Call the Public Information Office at (417) 864-1010 to receive your free copy today.

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## Landscape Awards



Applications are now being accepted for the 2002 Annual Landscape Awards. All citizens are encouraged to nominate sites of outstanding aesthetic quality located within the City of Springfield. Nominations can be for all types of sites, including individual homes, retail or office establishments, neighborhood gateways and many more. Past winners have included Walnut Street Bed & Breakfast, Old Monterrey Apartments, Cracker Barrel Restaurant, Prime Inc. and many others. Entries for this year will be accepted April 15 through June 21. Winners will receive a plaque and runner-ups will receive letters of merits. Award winners will be honored during a public awards presentation. For more information, please contact Ron Carey Planning and Development at 864-1089 or by e-mail at [ron\\_carey@ci.springfield.mo.us](mailto:ron_carey@ci.springfield.mo.us)